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Letter dated 17 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the following Permanent Missions of States Members of the United Nations which are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — I have the honour, as a representative of the country chairing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to transmit herewith the Bishkek Declaration of the Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held on 16 August 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 19, 35, 51, 54 (a), (c) and (i), 56 (a), 71 (a), 93, 96, 98 (h), (q) and (u), 107, 108 and 117, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sirodjidin **Aslov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

Bishkek Declaration

The heads of the member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as the SCO or the Organization) — the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, held a meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO member States on 16 August 2007 in Bishkek. Guided by united or similar approaches to key current issues, they made the following Statement:

As the quickly evolving process of globalization intensifies the interdependence of States, their security and development become interconnected as a result. Only through the concerted efforts of the entire international community, based on agreed principles and by means of multilateral mechanisms, can modern challenges and threats be effectively counteracted. Unilateral action cannot resolve existing problems.

An effective global security system can only be built under the auspices of the United Nations and in strict accordance with its Charter.

Cooperation in counteracting new challenges and threats must be carried out in a consistent manner, free of double standards, and in strict observance of the norms of international law.

The international security agenda must not overlook such tasks as ensuring the continued stability of the world economy, reducing poverty, eliminating imbalances in social and economic development levels, maintaining economic, environmental, energy, and informational security, and protecting the populations and territories of the member States of the Organization against natural and technological disasters.

The SCO member States advocate the creation of a security structure based on generally accepted international legal norms that will:

- reflect the balance of interests of all subjects of international relations;
- guarantee the right of every State independently to choose its path of development based on its unique historical experience and national conditions, to protect its national integrity and the dignity of its people, and its right to participate in international affairs on an equal basis;
- ensure the settlement of international and regional conflicts and crises through political and diplomatic means in strict accordance with the principles and norms of international law and with due consideration of the legitimate interests of all parties concerned; and
- preserve the diversity of cultures and civilizations, and encourage the strengthening of dialogue among different civilizations and religions.

The SCO member States are determined to cooperate closely in tackling the issue of United Nations reform. The reform of the United Nations, and first and foremost of its Security Council, must proceed on the basis of the broadest consensus of its members. Successful cooperation in this area is the key to comprehensive strengthening of the United Nations, reaffirming the central role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, and the full realization of the interests of all SCO member States.

The SCO member States consistently advocate the strengthening of strategic stability and oppose the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They also consider the drafting of an international legal document on preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space, as well as on preventing the use of force or the threat of using force against space objects, to be an important and urgent step.

The heads of State note the significance of the ratification of the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006, and welcome the adoption of the respective resolution at the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly. That resolution favourably evaluates the contribution of the Central Asian States to the causes of consolidating the nuclear non-proliferation regime, advancing cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and strengthening international and regional peace and security.

The heads of State support the efforts of the participating States of the Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty to conclude a Protocol on Security Guarantees with the nuclear-weapon States, in order to ensure that the region becomes a genuine nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

The heads of the SCO member States recognize the stimulative effect of the rapid development and massive use of information and communication technology on the social progress of humanity, and express concern over the potential threat of such technology being used for purposes inconsistent with the task of protecting international stability and security.

The SCO member States stand ready to promote cooperation on strengthening international information security in all aspects, and to step up joint efforts in this regard.

The heads of State believe that stability and security in Central Asia should rely first and foremost on the power of the region's States, and guaranteed through international organizations already established in the region.

The member States stress the need for collective efforts to counteract new challenges and threats. They favourably evaluate the activity of the SCO Regional Antiterrorist Structure and believe that it possesses great potential for further enhancing cooperation in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Expressing concern over the threat of narcotics originating in Afghanistan and their danger to Central Asia, the heads of State call for consistent strengthening of anti-narcotics cooperation within the framework of the Organization, and for combining international efforts to create "anti-narcotics safety zones" around Afghanistan. The SCO member States stand ready to participate in efforts to normalize the political situation in Afghanistan, to develop economic cooperation with the country, and intensify the activity of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group.

The heads of the SCO member States note the important role of the energy sector as a basis for steady economic growth and security, and attach special significance to strengthening interaction in this area. Reliable and mutually beneficial partnerships in various fields of the energy sector will help strengthen security and stability across the SCO region as well as in the wider world. Comparison of energy strategies in the SCO framework is a pressing task. Considering current resources, demand, capabilities and potential, the SCO member States will continue to promote dialogue on energy issues and practical cooperation among energy-producing, transit and consuming States.

The SCO member States reaffirm their commitment to provide mutual practical assistance in implementation of national economic development programmes.

The SCO member States reiterate that the Organization is open for interaction with all interested partners on the basis of international law and the generally accepted norms of international relations with the aim of finding mutually acceptable solutions for the key current issues.

(*Signed*) N. **Nazarbaev**
President
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) **Hu** Jintao
President
People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) K. **Bakiev**
President
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) V. **Putin**
President
Russian Federation

(*Signed*) E. **Rakhmon**
President
Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) I. **Karimov**
President
Republic of Uzbekistan